

REMARKS

Claims 1-6 and 13-26 are pending in the application.

Claims 1-6 and 13-26 stand rejected.

Claims 1-6, 13-14, 16-19, and 21-23 have been amended. No new matter has been added.

Claim Objections

Claims 2, 4, and 6 stand objected to due to their recital of the phrase “without user input.”

See Office Action, p. 3. While Applicants do not accept the reasons offered by the Office Action in support of the objection, nor do they accept the reading of MPEP 2173.05(q) offered by the Office Action, Applicants have amended the claims to remove this phrase in order to advance prosecution. For at least this reason Applicants respectfully request the withdrawal of the objection against claims 2, 4, and 6.

Rejection of Claims under 35 U.S.C. §112

Claim 1 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, as purportedly being indefinite since it “recites ‘displaying controls including a first and second button’, but does not positively recite the actual activating of the first and second button.” *See* Office Action, p. 4. While not acceding to the rejection, Applicants have amended claim 1, and so respectfully request the withdrawal of this rejection.

Claims 2, 4, and 6 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, as purportedly being indefinite since they each recite the phrase “without user input.” *Id.* While not acceding to the rejection, Applicants have amended the claims to address the Examiner’s concerns. For at least this reason Applicants respectfully request the withdrawal of the rejection against claims 2, 4, and 6.

Rejection of Claims under 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1-6 and 13-26 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as purportedly being unpatentable over Vance, U.S. Patent No. 6,442,526 (“Vance”). *See* Office Action, p. 4. Applicants traverse this rejection.

Activation of the First Button is Performed After User Input Selecting a Single Activity Type

As amended, independent claim 1 recites (1) receiving an activation of a first button and (2) after each activation of the activity item creation button, in response to each activation of the activity item creation button: establishing a user-selected activity type for an activity item, wherein (3) the establishing the user-selected activity type comprises receiving a user input selecting a single activity type. Thus, claim 1 requires at least two distinct actions. Claim 1 recites that (1) a first button is activated, and (2) a user input selecting a single activity type is received. These actions must be distinct since one is performed after and in response to the other.

However, the Office Action attempts to equate Vance’s new trip icon with the claimed first button (*see* Office Action, pp. 4-5), while at the same time, the Office Action attempts to equate the activation of Vance’s new trip icon button with the claimed action of establishing a user-selected activity type (*see* Office Action, p. 5). Thus, according to the interpretation of Vance offered by the Office Action, Vance merely teaches a single action, the action of activating Vance’s new trip icon.

Thus, for at least the reason that, according to the interpretation of Vance offered by the Office Action, Vance fails to teach at least two distinct actions, Vance can not teach the limitations of (1) receiving an activation of a first button and (2) after each activation of the activity item creation button, in response to each activation of the activity item creation button:

establishing a user-selected activity type for an activity item, wherein (3) the establishing the user-selected activity type comprises receiving a user input selecting a single activity type. For at least these reasons, Applicants respectfully request the reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection against claim 1 and its dependent claims.

Further, Applicants respectfully request the reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection against independent claims 3 and 5, together with their respective dependent claims, for at least the foregoing reasons, as claims 3 and 5 have been amended to recite similar limitations.

No Explicit or Inherent Teaching of Consulting a Pre-determined Mapping

In addition, independent claims 1, 3, and 5 each recite limitations related to establishing an expense type for a created expense item, wherein the establishing the expense type comprises consulting a pre-determined mapping from activity types to expense types. The Office Action asserts that Vance 8:66-9:10 teaches consulting a pre-determined mapping from activity types to expense types to automatically establish an expense type for the created expense item. *See* Office Action, p. 5. However, no details concerning the manner in which Vance's expense form is created are provided by Vance 8:66-9:10. Thus, Vance 8:66-9:10 does not explicitly teach or suggest consulting a pre-determined mapping of any kind. In addition, since Vance's expense form can be created in a number of ways without consulting a pre-determined mapping from activity types to expense types, Vance 8:66-9:10 does not inherently teach or suggest consulting a pre-determined mapping of any kind. Vance's expense form may be created for example by consulting a mapping from various user-input fields, in which expense data is entered, to various elements of a data structure in which the expense data is stored, to various output fields on the expense form. In addition, Vance's expense form can be created without consulting any mapping at all. The invention disclosed in Vance may simply comprise instructions that specify that data

is retrieved from a given source and output to a certain field in Vance's expense form. Thus, even if the output fields of Vance's expense form were associated with or are expenses of a certain type (a point which Applicants do not concede), it does not follow that Vance shows, teaches, or suggests consulting a mapping from activity types to expense types.

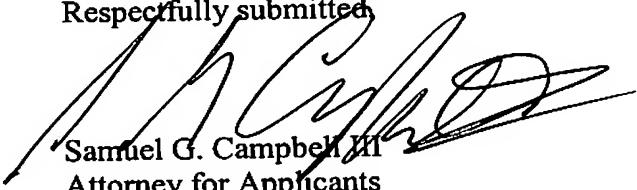
Thus, for at least the reason that Vance fails to either explicitly or inherently teach consulting a pre-determined mapping from activity types to expense types, Applicants respectfully request the reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection against independent claims 1, 3, and 5 and their respective dependent claims.

CONCLUSION

In view of the amendments and remarks set forth herein, the application is believed to be in condition for allowance and a notice to that effect is solicited. Nonetheless, should any issues remain that might be subject to resolution through a telephonic interview, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at 512-439-5089.

If any extensions of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a) are required in order for this submission to be considered timely, Applicant hereby petitions for such extensions. Applicant also hereby authorizes that any fees due for such extensions or any other fee associated with this submission, as specified in 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or § 1.17, be charged to deposit account 502306.

Respectfully submitted,


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